

Appl. No. : 10/719,532
Filed : November 21, 2003

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A pharmaceutical formulation for ~~preventing or~~ treating allergies or asthma in a mammal comprising:

~~at least one helminth-based agent antigen,~~

wherein said helminth-based antigen comprises a protein obtained or derived from a species selected from the group consisting of one or more of the following: *Capillaria hepatica* and *Dicrocoelium dendriticum*,

wherein said helminth-based antigen increases said mammal's blood serum levels of Immunoglobulin E levels (IgE) to greater than about 3,000 IU/ml wherein said helminth-based agent is capable of thereby ameliorating the allergic reaction of said mammal to a plurality of antigens.

2. (Previously presented) The formulation of Claim 1, further comprising at least one pharmaceutically acceptable compound selected from the group consisting of one or more of the following: adjuvants, carriers and diluents.

3. (Canceled)

4. (Canceled)

5. (Canceled)

6. (Canceled)

7. (Withdrawn & Currently Amended) The formulation of Claim 1, A pharmaceutical formulation for treating allergies or asthma in a mammal comprising at least one helminth-based antigen wherein said helminth-based antigen wherein said helminth-based agent comprises an effective amount of a nucleic acid molecule encoding at least one epitope of a helminthic organism, wherein said helminthic organism is selected from the group consisting of one or more of the following: *Capillaria hepatica* and *Dicrocoelium dendriticum*,

8. (Currently Amended) The formulation of Claim 1, ~~wherein said helminth-based agent antigen comprises a protein isolated from a helminth, wherein said protein is a recombinant cell transformed with a nucleic acid molecule encoding said protein.~~

9. (Withdrawn) The formulation of Claim 1, wherein said helminth-based agent comprises an antibody directed to at least one epitope of a helminthic antigen.

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10. (Withdrawn) The formulation of Claim 9, wherein said antibody comprises a monoclonal antibody.

11. (Previously amended) The formulation of Claim 1, wherein said pharmaceutical formulation comprises a form selected from the group consisting of one or more of the following: injectable fluids, suppositories, powder, tablets, capsules, syrups, suspensions, liquids and elixirs.

12. (Currently Amended) ~~A vaccine~~ An extract for ~~preventing~~ treating allergies or asthma in a mammal comprising the pharmaceutical formulation of Claim 1 in an amount sufficient to regulate IgE.

13. (Withdrawn) A method of preventing or treating allergies or asthma in a mammal comprising administering a therapeutically effective dose of the pharmaceutical formulation of Claim 1 to said mammal.

14. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 13, wherein said pharmaceutical formulation is administered by a route which results in systemic absorption of an immunogenic amount of said pharmaceutical formulation.

15. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 13, wherein said pharmaceutical formulation is administered intradermally, intravenously, orally or rectally.

16. (Withdrawn) A method of immunizing a human against IgE-regulated allergic reactions by administering an effective dose of the pharmaceutical formulation of Claim 1 to said human.

17. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 13, wherein said human is less than one year old.

18. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 13, wherein said administering occurs within two weeks after birth.

19. (Withdrawn) A method of relieving the symptoms of allergy in a mammal comprising administering a therapeutically effective dose of the pharmaceutical formulation of Claim 1 to said mammal when experiencing said symptoms

20. (Withdrawn) A method of competitively inhibiting allergen-specific IgE in a mammal comprising administering a therapeutically effective dose of the pharmaceutical formulation of Claim 1 to said mammal.

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21. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 16, further comprising measuring total serum IgE levels and serum levels of IgE specific to allergens.

22. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 21, wherein said measuring is performed by ELISA or enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay testing.

23. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 16, wherein said therapeutically effective dose of the pharmaceutical formulation is determined by measuring said mammal's IgE levels and administering a dose sufficient to provide a desired level, wherein said desired level is greater than about 1500 IU/ml.

24. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 23, wherein said desired level is about 3000 IU/ml.